

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Evgeny I. Rivin

Serial No.: 10/073,399

Filed: February 11, 2002

For: NONLINEAR AND ADJUSTABLE BUSHINGS

Group Art Unit: 3683

Examiner: Douglas C. Butler

(Enked in part)

## REPLY TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Examiner Douglas C. Butler

FAX 703.305.7687

Dear Sir:

In response to Office Communication mailed December 04, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

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## IN THE CLAIMS:

Delete Claim 1.

Delete Claim 8.

Add Claim 10 as follows:

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10. A bushing comprising a rigid inner sleeve and an outer sleeve coaxial with said inner sleeve, and rubber insert between said outer sleeve and said inner sleeve, with said sleeves attached, respectively, to the first and the second mechanical components connected by said bushing while allowing a limited mobility between said first and second mechanical components at least in one direction, this mobility determined by stiffness constants of said rubber insert along translational and angular directions of mobility, said rubber insert comprising at least one streamlined element whose stiffness constants can be changed by preloading by compression in its radial direction.

Add Claim 11 as follows:

11. The bushing of Claim 10 wherein said rubber insert comprises a plurality of streamlined rubber elements.

Add Claim 12 as follows:

12. The bushing of Claim 10 comprising means for applying variable compression preload forces to said streamlined rubber elements.

Add Claim 13 as follows: